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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/759,924	01/12/2001	Daryl Carvis Cromer	RPS920000055US1	2774

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EXAMINER

LONG, HEATHER R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2615

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DATE MAILED: 05/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/759,924

Applicant(s)

CROMER ET AL.

Examiner

Heather R Long

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 May 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Friedman (U.S. Patent 5,499,294).

Regarding claim 1, Friedman discloses a method in a digital camera for verifying that a particular digital visual image was produced by the digital camera, the method comprising the steps of: storing a visual image in a digital format in the camera; generating a digital signature for the image utilizing the camera only in response to the storage of the image in the camera, the digital signature associating the stored image with the camera; storing the digital signature only in the camera, the signature being stored separately from the image in the camera, the digital signature capable of being utilized only within the camera by only the camera, wherein the signature is inaccessible to devices other than the camera; and subsequently authenticating the particular digital visual image as being produced by the digital camera utilizing the digital signature stored in the digital camera, wherein only the digital camera is capable of authenticating the particular digital visual image (col. 3, lines 60-65; col. 4, lines 29-54; col. 5, lines 48-65; col. 4, lines 47-54).

Regarding claim **2**, Friedman discloses a method further comprising the steps of: storing the visual image in a file within the camera, the file being designated by a filename; and storing the signature in the camera with the filename (col. 5, lines 48-65). It is inherent the file would be designated by a filename in order to retrieve that file again.

Regarding claim **3**, Friedman discloses a method further comprising the steps of: establishing a hardware master key pair for digital camera, the hardware master key pair including a master private key and a master public key, the hardware master key pair being associated with the digital camera so that the master private key is known to only the digital camera; establishing a signature device having an encryption engine and a protected storage device, the protected storage device being accessible only through the encryption engine; and storing the hardware master key pair in the protected storage device (col. 4, lines 29-46).

Regarding claim **4**, Friedman discloses a method wherein the step of generating a digital signature further comprises the steps of hashing the stored image to produce an original image digest; signing the first digest utilizing the master private key; and storing the signed original image digest as the signature (col. 5, lines 48-65).

Regarding claim **5**, Friedman discloses a method wherein the step of authenticating the visual image further comprises the steps of: retrieving an image to authenticate; retrieving a signature for the image which is to be

authenticated; hashing the image which is to be authenticated to produce a first digest; decrypting the retrieved signature to retrieve a second digest; comparing the first digest to the second digest; determining that the image has not been altered in response to a determination that the first and second digests match (col. 4, lines 47-54; col. 5, lines 8-14).

Regarding claims **6** and **7**, grounds for rejecting claims 4 and 5 apply for claims 6 and 7 in their entireties.

Regarding claims **8-14**, these are apparatus claims corresponding to the method claims 1-7. Therefore, claims 8-14 are analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claims 1-7.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Heather R Long whose telephone number is 703-305-0681. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Thurs.: 7:00 am - 4:30 pm, and every other Fri.: 7:00 am - 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Christensen can be reached on (703) 308-9644. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2615

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HRL
April 26, 2004



NGOC-YEN VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER